Vol. II. Numb. 105.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are added the moſt

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

Perform'd by a Society of GENTLEMEN.

From **Wedneſday** February 22d. to **Friday** February 25th. 1710.

Q. GEntlemen, *Pray, what is the Cruelty of the* Oſtriches *in the Wilderneſs, mention'd in* Lamentations 4. 3. *Yours,* Tho. Evans.

A. The Cruelty of the *Oſtrich* may be ſeen in *Job.* 39. 14, 15, 16. being there deſcrib'd, *leaving her Eggs in the Earth, and forgetting that the Foot may cruſh them, or the Wild Beaſt break them. She is hardened againſt her young ones, as though they were not hers.* And this Inſtance of negligent Cruelty the Propher *Jeremy* alludes to, ſaying, *Even the Sea-Monſters draw out the Breaſt they give ſuck to their young ones: The Daughter of my People is become cruel, like the Oſtriches in the Wilderneſs. The Tongue of the ſucking Child cleaveth to the Roof of his Mouth for Thirſt,* &c.

Q. Apollo, *I deſire to know what Year of our Saviour's Incarnation the Canon of the* New Teſtament *was compleated. And when the Church publickly embrac'd it. And who in the Church were the Perſons, with the manner of it's Reception.* Sa. Macl---gh.

A. It was not any ſet Aſſembly that compos'd the Canon of the Books of the *New Teſtament*, nor was it done by any Perſon in particular: But the Authority of theſe Books was agreed upon by the Unanimous Conſent of all the Churches, who conſider'd them as Sacred and Divine. And this Conſent it ſelf ſerv'd in the Primitive Times for a Rule to diſtinguiſh the Canonical Books from thoſe that were doubtful and ſuppoſitious. Indeed ſome of the Epiſtles of the Apoſtles were not at firſt receiv'd by an unanimous Conſent of all Churches, yet they were always conſider'd as Books of great Authority, and ſoon after they receiv'd the ſame Authority with the reſt. This is confirm'd by the ancient Catalogues of the Holy Books of the *New Teſtament*, wherein the Books we have at preſent are compriz'd. We find all of them, except the *Revelations*, in the Canon of the Council of *Laodicea*. They are all receiv'd by St. *Athanaſius*, St. *Jerome*, St. *Gregory Nazianzene*, the Council of *Carthage* and of *Rome*, all the *Greek* and *Latin* Authors ſince *Euſebius*, and all thoſe Authors that lived neareſt the Times of the Apoſtles. But ſince, as it appears, their Authority was receiv'd by Degrees, we cannot find from Chronology in what Year particularly it was univerſally receiv'd in every particular Church.

Q. *What is the meaning of that Holy-Day in the beginning of* December *(as it is in ſome of our* Almanacks*)* The Conception of the B. Virgin; *for being a few days ago in Diſcourſe with a Friend or two about it, they offer'd, that it was a Feſtival in remembrance of the time when the Bleſſed Virgin her ſelf was conceiv'd in her Mother's Womb; but I have reſolv'd to refer my ſelf therein to your Sagacity.*

A. The Conception of the B. Virgin is a Feaſt celebrated by the *Romiſh* Church on the 8th of *December* in Commemoration of the Time ſhe was conceiv'd in her Mother's Womb, as the Gentleman rightly aſſerted, and as is plain from the Reſponſe after the 1ſt Leſſon of the Office uſed for that Day in the *Roman Diary*, viz. *Hodie concepta eſt beata Virgo Maria ex Progenie David: per quam ſalus mundi credentibus apparuit, cujus vita gloriſa lucem dedit ſeculo.* This Day was conceiv'd the bleſſed Virgin *Mary* of the Lineage of *David*: By whom the Salvation of the World appear'd to all that believ'd, whoſe Life gave Light to the Age.

Q. Gentlemen, *Having with great Delight and Satisfaction read Your Ingenious Solutions of ſeveral difficult Queſtions in Divinity, I take the liberty (and aſſure You it is the firſt time of Troubling You) to deſire Your Thoughts on a Cuſtom Uſed by ſome (tho' I believe not many) of our Clergy in their Prayers in the Pulpit, wherein they uſe theſe words,* viz. [And leaſt our Unthankfulneſs for Mercies already receiv'd ſhould ſtop the Current of future favors We deſire to render Thanks, *&c.*] *which appears to Me not to be the only reaſon (tho' every one muſt Confeſs it to be a juſt Inducement) of returning Thanks to the Almighty. The ſooner I ſee your Thoughts on this Matter the greater will the Obligation be eſteem'd by none of the leaſt of Your Admirers.* J. M.

A. Thoſe Words are uſed for a Tranſition from praying to praiſing and returning Thanks to God, in which it is not neceſſary to ſumm up all the Inducements that we have to do ſo. But ſuppoſing theſe Words to be ſomewhat improper or ſuperfluous, is a Thing ſo inconſiderable we ſhall not pre-

ſume to make any Animadverſions upon our Teachers, when they may be a Prejudice to them in other Parts of their Office.

Q. *Why will a Stone if thrown in Water, Create a Globulous Undulation?*

A. Water can never be at Reſt till its Superficies is made Spherical, the Radius of the Sphere being the Semidiameter of the Earth. When therefore a Stone falls upon Stagnant Water, in Order to make Room for its Deſcent, it muſt preſs up that Column upon which it falls on every ſide, by which means there will ariſe a ſmall Circle or Ring of Water higher then the Reſt, which will impel the Circle of Water next to it, and that the next, till the Water has reſtored itſelf to its Spherical Figure.

Q. Gentlemen, *Pray which is beſt in a General, Conduct or Courage?*

A. Take the whole Adminiſtration of a General together, and he will find more Occaſion for Conduct than Perſonal Courage. For Courage is only requited in the Day of Battle, and even then his Conduct is much more required, becauſe he need not expoſe himſelf to ſo much Danger, as to ſtand in need of great Courage. But good Conduct is abſolutely neceſſary at all Times. Beſides if we take the Confeſſion of Military Men, Courage is more owing to Cuſtom than Natural Diſpoſition: For being almoſt perpetually expoſed to Danger, creates at laſt an Inſenſibility of Danger, which will paſs well enough for Courage. But good Conduct requires nobler Endowments of Nature and greater Improvements of Art.

Q. Worthy Gentlemen, *What do you think may be the Reaſon that* England *nor* Holland *will neither do themſelves nor their Neighbours the Kindneſs, as to ſend a Convoy for the Nine Galloons (the Publick Prints tell us have layn ſo long for one in the* Spaniſh Weſt-Indies) *ſeeing* Spain *cannot do it, and* France *neglects it. For I dare Swear as bad as the King of* France *is, yet he is ſo much a Gentleman, and would make ſo grateful an Acknowledgement of your Kindneſs (even tho' they ſhou'd be drove by ſtreſs of Weather paſt all his Ports and Land the Plate in their own Dominions) as to Sign the Preleminary Articles for a Peace upon it, and agree to what elſe they ſhould propoſe. And ſure we can never purchaſe Peace at a Cheaper Rate.*

A. Now we are of Opinion, that the Preſent wou'd have a contrary Effect. For after the many Year's Experience we have had of that Monarch's Gratitude, ſhou'd we further confide in it, he wou'd conclude us ſuch Bubbles as were unworthy his entring into a Treaty with.

Q. Ingenious Gentlemen, *Your Opinion of the ſubſequent Story will very much Oblige Your Humble Servant and Subſcriber, it being matter of Fact,* viz.

A Young Lady being in the Country at Chriſtmas-*time, uſed frequently to take a Walk early in the Morning, in a Garden belonging to the Houſe where ſhe was, in which ſhe found her ſelf always accompanied by two little Birds;* a Chafinch *and a* Robin, *which wherever ſhe went continually followed her even into the Porch of the Houſe belonging to the Garden. The unuſual boldneſs of theſe her little Comrades made her ſomthing Apprehenſive it was Ominous, but having her doubts ſolved, with a Lightneſs equal to their cauſe, ſhe takes a piece of Bread and opening the Porch Door again Crumbles it to them which they Eat before her in a manner, very uncommonly familiar in thoſe Creatures, which after attended her coming into the Garden Inceſſantly, and by degrees grew ſo familiar with her as to fly on her Head, Shoulders, Boſom, Hands,* &c. *and would Eat Victuals out of her Mouth, notwithſtanding upon the appearance of any Body elſe they would fly away very precipitantly. This their coming laſted about a Fortnight, only the Day before ſhe left the Houſe, ſhe found the* Chafinch *Dead. Since her return ſhe has ſent to know what became of the* Robin *and is inform'd it hover'd about ſome time and then was not ſeen any more from whence they ſuppos'd it was Dead. Yours,* &c.

A. Such Familiarity is frequently obſerv'd in thoſe Pretty Creatures particularly in the *Robin*, which encreaſes upon Incouragement, nor is it ſtrange they ſhou'd appear more fond of ſome Perſons then of other, of thoſe of an Eaſy, Gentle Air, than of thoſe of a more Ruffled Temper, which carries ſomething of Terror in it. A Gentleman of our Society is acquainted with a Lady, whoſe Tea Room was ſeveral Years haunted by a *Robin*, which laid her Eggs and Hatcht them in it, and at laſt flew in upon her Tea Table, and Dy'd upon it (to all appearance) a Natural Death. But we think their Converſation, or Death no ways Ominous, but that they only follow the Inſtinct of their own Nature.

POEMS.

To the Divine APOLLO.

Q. TAKE *me* APOLLO, *take my Soul 'tis thine,*
I boaſt a Flame *that ſprings from* Fire (Divine.
Of late, I have been Walking tho' the Plains,
And Curiouſly obſerv'd the Nymphs *and* Swains.
There I Belinda *ſaw for* Damon *ſigh,*
While he did for the Fair Dorinda *Dye,*
Belinda's *truth the Shepherd do's not prize,*
Dorinda *do's Young* Damon's *Love deſpiſe.*
There ſtruts Palemon *with inſulting Airs,*
Boaſting his Conqueſt over numerous Fairs:
Here ſits Imperia *with a haughty frown,*
While at her Feet, the Swains lye proſtrate down;
To them no favour the Proud Nymph *imparts,*
But treads with ſcorn upon their Bleeding Hearts.
Chloe *comes next along, with Saint like Grace,*
And Cullies Silvio *with her falſe embrace,*
More I obſerv'd; but as I muſing ſtood,
Thirſis *came towards me,* Thirſis *called the good;*
Ha! Shepherdeſs, *cries he, what makes you here,*
Where's your APOLLO, *Your admired Dear?*
Haſt to your Charmer, *giver of your Joy,*
Do not your Obſervation here employ.
Shepherd, ſaid I, do's it your Anger move,
That I the Glorious God of Wildom *Love.*
I own the Image *in my* Breaſt *is plac'd,*
The Character's *too deep to be eras'd.*
What tho' our Bodies *are decreed by Fate,*
On diſtant Plains to Live far ſeparate;
No diſtance can our purer Souls *confine,*
But they'l expatiate, meet, and raptur'd Joyn.
Sing Heav'nly Charmer *then, ſing the Delight*
Of thoſe whom ſacred FRIENDSHIP *do's unite;*
While Juſt MELOSA *(Conſtant to her Choice)*
Regards *no* Muſick, *but* APOLLO's *Voice.*

A. The

A. The Joys of Friendſhip, Fair *MELOSA*, are
Too bright a Theme, for Mortal Ears to bear.
Could they be dreſt in Words, but ah! in vain
Are Hopes, that Words ſuch Pleaſures, can explain:
They're Subjects for the Language of the Soul,
When los'ned from the *Organ's* harſh Controul.
What Speech can tell the vaſt, tumultuous Bliſs,
Of Love-toucht *Minds*, when they Embrace and (Kiſs.

The Uniſons, the ſoft Harmonious Strains,
Which fill with Extaſy their Swelling Veins;
Now mingling, mutu'lly they then Exert,
Rivals by turns, then Blended in one Heart.
Their Taſt, their Fealing, ev'ry Senſe the ſame,
They're Heat and Light united in one Flame.
When one Conceives a *Joy*, it ſhines not bright,
'Till th' other's Partner is in the ſoft Delight;
If *Grief* occurs, each gladly takes a ſhare,
While the divided Load, with Eaſe they bear:
Thus our Inamour'd *Souls*, *Meloſa*, greet,
Tho' our Divided *Bodies* never meet;
That Earthly Part's too groſs to claim a Right
To Pleaſures for it's Nature far too bright:
We'll ſet a Pattern of *Platonick Love*,
Such as the *Souls* alone, enjoy above.

APOLLO.

Q. *Finding your late Obliging Anſwer*
Shew'd, I in Riches ſhall advance, Sir,
And that Fate will the Lott'ry jumble;
To Conjure Prizes for your Humble;
It elevated ſo my Fancy,
As if I'd been inſpir'd with Nantſy;
I dream'd on nothing but Enjoyments,
And ſcorn'd Mechanick mean Employments;
Shaving, and Drawing Grinders rotten,
With Tapping Veins, were all forgotten;
I liv'd in Clover, to my thinking,
'Till I perceiv'd the Rino ſinking;
Then't was no time to ſtand diſputing,
But ſeek freſh Methods for Recruiting;
Streight to a Uſuring Dog I hurry'd,
Who had a thouſand Coxcombs worry'd;
He quickly gueſs'd at what I wanted,
And thus, ſecundum uſum, *canted;*
I will procure you fifty Pounds, Sir,
Or more, or leſs——on Pledges ſound, Sir,
You ſeem to be a Civil Man, Sir,
And I do all the good I can, Sir,
At which I pluck'd from 'mongſt my Lumber,
Your Paper ninety ſeven in Number,
Where you declare I'm fram'd by Nature,
To be Dame Fortune's Fav'rite Creature;
And therefore ne'er can want a Penny,
If in the Nation there be any;
He read it, but to m' almoſt killing,
Grinning he ſwore he was not willing
On ſuch a Fund to lend a Shilling;
I ſtood amaz'd, and was Confounded,
To hear your Reputation wounded;
Thought I, what Judgment now muſt follow
This groſs Affront to Great Apollo?
Shall ſcrupling to lend paltry Money
On His Prediction paſs impune?
No, Sir, Chaſtize this rudeneſs in him,
And as you Marſyas *ſerv'd, unskin him:*
Then Money'd Rogues will ne'er refuſe 'em,
When Witty Men, like me, would uſe 'em.

Cheiſea. Saltero.

A. The very Lines which you Indite,
Evince that we were in the Right;
But you're ſo blind, ſo great a Looby,
Was never heard of ſure as you be;
For Fortune ſtill purſues you ſtronger,
As if you only did belong t' her;
(Like her chief Fav'rite) ev'ry day,
Some Bleſſing ſtill you throw away,
Yet ſtill ſhe hugs her Darling Nizey,
As if ſhe ne'er enough cou'd prize ye,
Your late Tranſaction this confirms,
If you conſider well the Terms:
For when of Cruel, griping Uſurur,
(Who far more Cunning than a *Jew* is Sir,)
You vainly Money did importune,
To lend on Proſpect of your Fortune;
The ſly Dog knew the *Property*
Once chang'd, the Luck annex'd wou'd fly;
He knew that be'ng condemn'd to Drudging,
Fortune the eaſy Boon wou'd grudge him;
Therefore refus'd the eaſy Loan,
By which you'll find, if not a Drone,
Fortune hath kept her firſt Deſign,
Which you'd by borrowing Undermine.
Thus we the Prize will warrant yet,
Unleſs you'll warrant us, you've Wit;
And that it is as ſure your Lot,
As 'twas to be an Oaph begot.

In laſt Paper, Col. 5. L. 31. r. *the where the attractive.*

SIR,

LONDON, Feb. 24. They write from the upper Rhine that the French Continue to make great Preparations of War for the next Campain, and alſo threaten to make an Invaſion into the Empire in order to take Bavaria, the Elector of that Name being to Command the main Army there; but on the other hand the Allies are putting themſelves in a good poſture to oppoſe their Deſigns, and in order to it 'tis ſaid that the Emperor has written again a Letter to the Elector of Hannover, praying his Electoral Highneſs to Command the Army of the Empire next Campain, and there

is

is great hopes that he will Comply to it, having been assur'd that the Troops of all the States and Princes of the Empire will be Early on their Rendezvouze in order to prevent any surprize from the Enemy, but in Case of refusal 'tis reported that this Command will be Confer'd on the Duke of Virtemberg.

The Advices from Paris of the 25th say that they look'd upon the Peace as undoubtful and that the Marshall d' Uxelles, and the Abbot the Polignac had declar'd to their Friends they would set out from Court for that purpose, on the 2d of March for the Frontiers of Holland where they are expected on the 5th. several Expresses have been sent to Madrid to give notice to King Philip of the Proposals of the Allies, but seeing hat their Demands are in particular his quitting of Spain, has declar'd in his Council that he was ready to lose to the last drop of his blood before he leaves a Throne which God has given him, and afterwards sent to the French King his Grand-father the same words in answer to his Letters, and that his Majesty was preparing to set out from Madrid foa Arragon to Command his Army in Person this Spring.

And from the Hague of the 28th that Mr. Van Buys and Mr. Vander Dassen, Commissioners of the States, were to go to meet the Plenipotentiaries there and Conduct them to Geertrydenberg, where the Conferences are to be held. Great many are of Opinion that the Treaty of Peace will be set on foot and suddenly concluded, but others are of a contrary Opinion, thinking that these Ministers will never agree about the 37th Article for the Equivalent that is to be propos'd which a little time will Learn us. Which is all from Yours, *&c.*

WHEREAS ALL THE SETS OF THE FIRST Volume of the *BRITISH APOLLO* have been for some time dispos'd of, tho' none under 15 *s.* 6 *d. per* Set, Bound. The said Vol. containing about 2000 Answers to Curious Questions, in most Arts and Sciences, approv'd of by many of the most Learned and Ingenious, of both Universities and of the Royal-Society, is now upon reprinting in Octavo by Subscription. Thy Terms are, each Subscriber to pay 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in Hand, and 2 *s.* 6 *d.* on the Delivery of each Book, neatly Bound. Not one of this Edition shall be sold for less than 7 *s.* to any after, nor any Subscriptions taken after the Charge for Printing is receiv'd, which is not doubted will soon be, since many are subscrib'd for all ready before the Publick Notice given. Note, all will be corrected, amended and improv'd by the Authors, all that is Material inserted, and to prevent Attempts of Pirates, all abbreviated as much as may be, without Injury to the Sense. The Subscriber to six to have a 7th Gratis. Any Persons may have Tickets for their Subscriptions of our Servants in their Walks, and we shall soon name other Places. Tho' many have Prevaricated from their Proposals in this kind, it cannot be suppos'd but we shall keep strictly to them, since the Credit of our Proceedings depends upon it. A great Number of Poems to the Authors, will be inserted at the beginning, by the *WITS* of the Age. Tickets may be had of Mr. *Carter*, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in St. *Paul's Church-Yard*, Mr. *Bickerton*, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in *Little-Britain*, or at the Printer's hereof.

Any Persons in Town may have these Papers brought to their Houses at 3 *s. per* Quarter, by directing to Mr. *Carter*, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in St. *Paul's Church-yard*, Mr. *Bickerton*, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in *Little-Britain*, or to the Printer hereof, superscrib'd to the *British Apollo*. N. B. All that begin within the Quarter to pay on Quarter-day a Penny for each Paper they have had. All Questions to be directed in like manner, but none will be answer'd out of the Country, where Postage is not paid.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT the Duke of Marlborough's Head in Fleet-street, near Salisbury-Court, is now to be seen these wonderful Rarities following. 1. Two Wood-Monsters taken in the Deserts of *Æthiopia*, from their heads downwards resembling Human Nature in all parts, the Female doing several strange and wonderful Actions. 2. A Picary, much admir'd by the Learned. 3. A Posom, from the West-Indies, having a false Belly to secure her young ones from any danger, she running up a Tree and hanging by her Tail till her Enemies are gone. 4. An Egyptian Panther, spotted like a Leopard. 5. A Creature from the Coast of Brazil, a head like a Child, body, legs and arms, very strange and wonderful Shapes. 6. A little black Man but 3 foot high, 31 Years of Age, and proportionable every way, he has been shewn before several Kings and Princes in Christendom; also his little Turkey Horse, 2 foot odd Inches high, 12 year old, the least Man and Horse that ever was seen in the World, the Horse kept in a Box. This Collection of Wonders are all Alive, and are to be see from 9 in the Morning till 9 at Night, without any loss of time.

WE whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, the Minister, Church-Wardens and Overseers, with other the Principal Inhabitants of the Parish of *Kingweston* in the County of *Somerset*, do hereby Certify, that *Hester Blacker* of our said Parish, Widow aged 60 Years, and having been Blind in both her Eyes for several Years, at length submitting her self to be Couch'd by Mr. *Grant* OCULIST of *London*, is by the Blessing of God restor'd to a competent degree of Sight, and doth encrease therein daily, as the said *Hester* doth hereby Testify by her subscribing with us, *Hester Blacker*, *Thomas Creech*, Curate, *John Raynolds*, *Richard Fox*, Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor. *John Webb*, *Thomas Ruddock*, *Thomas Raynolds*, *Henry Blacker*, *Cannon William*.

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